

Message Text

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY LONDON PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

S E C R E T STATE 242090

LIMDIS

LONDON FOR DONALDSON AND KATZ

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: ENRG, UK, SA

SUBJ: COPENHAGEN SUMMIT

BRITISH COMMERCIAL MINISTER CALLED ON ARMSTRONG THIS MORNING UNDER INSTRUCTIONS TO INDICATE PRELIMINARY POSITION BRITISH GOVERNMENT REGARDING OIL AT THE COPENHAGEN SUMMIT. THE BRITISH RECOGNIZE THE GRAVITY OF THE SITUATION, RECOGNIZE THAT ONE COUNTRY IN EUROPE CANNOT TAKE AN ISOLATED POSITION OR VIEW, ARE CONSCIOUS OF THEIR OWN PROBLEMS WITH COAL, AND HAVE INTRODUCED STRICT CONTROLS ON PETROLEUM, BUT ARE PRIMARILY CONCERNED WITH THE POLITICAL ASPECTS OF THE MATTER. AS THEY SEE IT, IF THE ARABS OBSERVE THAT THEIR EMBARGO IS BEING FRUSTRATED, THEY WILL ONLY BECOME MORE SEVERE AND REDUCE THEIR PRODUCTION AND SHIPMENTS FURTHER. UK IS THEREFORE ANXIOUS TO AVOID AT COPENHAGEN ANY PUBLIC DECLARATION OF EC SOLIDARITY BUT THEY EXPECT THAT DISCREET COOPERATION WITHIN EC WILL CONTINUE, SO THAT ESSENTIAL REQUIREMENTS OF

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VARIOUS COUNTRIES ARE MET.

THE OBJECT OF EC SOLIDARITY, AS THE BRITISH SEE IT, CONSISTS IN PARTICIPATION IN THE SEARCH FOR A SETTLEMENT OF THE MIDDLE EAST CONFLICT, CONTINUING EFFORTS TO PERSUADE THE ARABS TO LAY OFF THE DUTCH, AND STRONG EMPHASIS ON THE POINT THAT THE ARABS WILL NOT ADVANCE THEIR CASE ANY FURTHER BY INFLECTING HARDSHIPS ON EUROPE OR OTHERS. THEY HOPE THE SUMMIT WILL CONCENTRATE ON THE POLITICAL ASPECTS OF THE MEETING, BUT THEY ALSO HOPE THE SUMMIT WILL CONSIDER THE IMPACT OF SUPPLY AND PRICE PROBLEMS IN THE CURRENT SITUATION, EMPHASIZE THE MEDIUM AND LONG-TERM PROSPECTS AS SUITABLE AREA FOR COMMUNITY COOPERATION IN RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT, ALTERNATIVES TO PETROLEUM SUCH AS NUCLEAR ENERGY, COAL, ETC., AND ENERGY CONSERVATION DEVICES SUCH AS RESIDUAL HEAT FROM POWER PLANTS, DEEP SEA DRILLING, ETC. THEY WILL URGE THE SUMMIT TOWARD NEW FRESH GUIDELINES FOR A STRONG COMMUNITY ENERGY POLICY.

CORTAZZI WENT ON TO SAY THAT LORD ALDINGTON, A BANKER AND PERSONAL FRIEND OF HEATH HAS ARRIVED IN SAUDI ARABIA TO TALK TO KING FAISAL. HE WILL BE EMPHASIZING THAT THE OIL RESTRICTIONS ARE A THREAT TO EUROPEAN SOLIDARITY AND CONSTITUTE A PARTICULAR STRAIN ON BRITISH-DUTCH RELATIONS. HE WILL ALSO DESCRIBE THE GRAVE EFFECT OF CURRENT LIMITATIONS ON WESTERN EUROPEAN ECONOMIES AND WILL SEEK TO PERSUADE THE KING THAT THE OIL WEAPON HAS MADE ITS POINT AND FURTHER USE IS COUNTERPRODUCTIVE. THE BRITISH WILL ADVISE US LATER CONCERNING THE OUTCOME OF THIS MISSION. ALDINGTON IS ACCOMPANIED BY TAYLOR OF FCO.

CORTAZZI ASKED THAT FOREGOING BE CLOSELY HELD, BUT OBSERVED THAT BRITISH WHO WOULD BE TALKING TO DONALDSON AND KATZ WOULD UNDOUBTEDLY MAKE THESE POINTS AT MEETING ON WEDNESDAY. KISSINGER

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